Amendments to the Specification:

On page 42, second paragraph, please amend the specification as follows:

Total RNA was extracted from sugar beet root infected by the beet necrotic yellow vein virus (BNYVV), a furovirus, using the RNAeasy Plant mini kit from QIAGEN. In order to amplify the 3' end of the BNYVV replicase gene (RNA1) the RNA was reverse transcribed to produce a cDNA using the Superscript^{TM}II RNAse H^{-}Reverse Transcriptase (RT) (Life Technologies) and the reverse primer HiNK285 (5'-TCG TAG AAG AG A ATT CAC CCA AAC TAT CC-3', SEQ ID NO:10). Primer HiNK285 is located between nucleotides 6378 and 6405 of the BNYVV RNA1 sequence (accession number D00115 ~~DO0115~~) and designed to introduce an *EcoRI* site. The RT reaction is subsequently used as template for two PCR reactions :